



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability
Infrastructure Security and Energy Restoration

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Friday, December 08, 2006

Major Developments

Update: About 13,000 Ameren Customers Remain Without Power in Missouri and Illinois State Officials Questioning Ameren for Failure to Restore Power One Week After Storm

According to Ameren UE's website, 12,833 customers in Missouri and Illinois remained without power at 3:31 p.m. CST today, down from a peak of 517,200 customers without power one week ago on December 1 when a violent winter storm passed through the region. Since the then, crews from 14 states have been assisting Ameren workers to clear broken tree limbs and repair power lines. Ameren expects to achieve full restoration sometime today.

Governor Matt Blunt of Missouri and Governor Pat Quinn of Illinois are taking steps to investigate Ameren for its failure to restore power quickly following the storm. Governor Blunt is asking Missouri's Public Service Commission to hold public hearings and for Ameren to provide a clear resolution to prevent a recurrence. Governor Quinn is urging Illinois utility regulators to investigate further, and the Illinois Commerce Commission is holding public hearings on December 19-20 to review plans for investigation into Ameren's preparedness and response.

Outage Page: http://www.ameren.com/Outage/ADC_RS_StormCenter.asp
<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2006/12/08/national/main2240153.shtml>

Electricity

ISO New England Predicts Adequate Electricity Supply to Meet Winter Demand

The Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at ISO New England, Stephen G. Whitley, said ISO New England expects to have adequate electricity supply this winter. ISO New England projects 2006-2007 winter peak electricity use to reach approximately 22,550 MW during normal winter weather conditions, which is 782 MW greater than last winter's peak demand of 21,768 MW. Whitley said that ISO New England has taken appropriate steps to maintain reliability even if the power system conditions change due to unforeseen extreme weather or outages.

http://pro.energycentral.com/professional/news/power/news_article.cfm?id=7514171

Update: Entergy's 967 MW River Bend Nuke Unit Returns to Full Power December 8

By early December 8, the unit had returned to full power following completion of repairs to a leaking tube in a condenser water box.

Reuters 07:12 December 8, 2006

Placer County's 218 MW Middle Fork Hydro Unit in California Shut December 7

Reuters, 13:02 December 8, 2006

Petroleum

DOE Selects Mississippi Site for 160 Million bbl Addition to SPR

U.S. Energy Secretary Bodman today announced that the Department of Energy (DOE) has identified the salt domes at Richton, Mississippi, as the preferred location for the addition of a new site to the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

The new site will store an additional 160 million bbls of crude oil. In addition, DOE plans to expand existing sites in Texas and Louisiana to bring the total storage capacity to 1 billion bbls, up from the present capacity of approximately 727 million bbls.

Reuters, 11:25 December 8, 2006

<http://www.energy.gov/news/4517.htm>

Update: ExxonMobil Stops Leaking Coking Unit at 349,000 b/d Beaumont, Texas Refinery December 8

ExxonMobil announced that the cause of the leaking coking unit at its 349,000 b/d refinery in Beaumont, Texas was a crack in a coking drum. A switch was made to another drum and the leak was stopped.

Reuters, 12:11 December 8, 2006

Delayed Coking Unit Malfunctions at Valero's 295,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery December 8

Valero reported to Texas regulators that a malfunctioning delayed coking unit at its 295,000 b/d Port Arthur refinery in Texas led to flaring off-gas from several units. Valero said it flared the off-gas from a hydrocracker, diesel hydrotreater, and delayed-coking unit in order to evaluate and repair the leak in the coking unit. Valero did not comment of the extent of repairs needed nor on any impact on production.

Reuters, 12:03 December 8, 2006

Bloomberg, 12:05 December 8, 2006

Valero has SRU Glitch at 135,000 b/d Wilmington, California Refinery December 8

According to a report to regulators from Valero, a problem with a sulfur recovery unit at the company's 135,000 b/d refinery in Wilmington, California led to flaring but had no impact on production.

Reuters, 12:33 December 8, 2006

Brazil's Petrobras Reports Record 484,000 b/d Oil Exports in November

The state-controlled oil company reported that its oil exports in November hit an all time high of 484,000 b/d.

Petrobras's exports went to the U.S. Gulf Coast, the U.S. West Coast, the Caribbean, South America, Europe, India, South Korea, and China.

Oil Daily, December 8, 2006.

Nigerian Militants Threaten Additional Attacks Against Oil Companies

The militant group Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) claimed responsibility for yesterday's raid on the 200,000 b/d Brass oil export terminal and warned that their tactics would become more ruthless against oil installations. On December 8, the U.S. consulate in Lagos issued a warning to Americans of possible new attacks in the delta

Reuters, 11:51 December 8, 2006

Natural Gas

Nothing to report.

Other News

Nothing to report.

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
December 8, 2006			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	62.06	63.43	60.66
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	7.45	8.42	14.25

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

Both U.S. House and Senate Pass Pipeline Safety Act

<http://intelligencepress.com/>

U.S. EPA Plans to Revise Process for Setting Air-Quality Standards

<http://www.platts.com/Electric%20Power/News/6328763.xml?p=Electric%20Power/News&sub=Electric%20Power>

Energy Diversity, Efficiency are Sources for Energy Security - ConocoPhillips' Economist

http://pro.energycentral.com/professional/news/power/news_article.cfm?id=7513791

All 159 of Old Sirens to be Replaced with Sophisticated Warning System in Next 3 year at Millstone Nuke Plant in Connecticut

http://pro.energycentral.com/professional/news/power/news_article.cfm?id=7510600

Links

This Week in Petroleum from the Energy Information Administration (EIA)

<http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/oog/info/twip/twip.asp>

Updated every Wednesday.

Weekly Petroleum Status Report from EIA

http://www.eia.doe.gov/oil_gas/petroleum/data_publications/weekly_petroleum_status_report/wpsr.html

Updated after 10:30 AM & 1:00 PM EST every Wednesday.

Natural Gas Weekly Update from EIA

<http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/oog/info/ngw/ngupdate.asp>

Updated after 2:00 PM EST every Thursday.

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

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<http://www.oe.netl.doe.gov/index.aspx>.

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